CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for transferring data, the method comprising:

2   (a)   reading, from an input record, a recorded unique device

3   identification and recorded device data for a device;

4   (b)   searching an index for an enduring unique device

5   identification matching the recorded unique device identification; and,

6   (c)   updating the index with the recorded device data.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the recorded device data includes a

2   recorded usage data.

1   3.   The method of claim 2 further including:

2   (a)   reading an enduring usage data from an enduring record in

3   the index having enduring unique device identification matching the recorded

4   unique device identification; and,

5   (b)   calculating a difference in usage data from the enduring

6   usage data and the recorded usage data.

1   4   The method of claim 1 wherein updating the index with the

2   recorded device data includes replacing enduring device data from the index

3   with the recorded device data.

1   5   The method of claim 1 wherein updating the index with the

2   recorded device data includes updating enduring device data from an enduring

3   record in the index having enduring unique device identification matching the

4   recorded unique device identification.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 further including, responsive to a failure to

2   find a match to the recorded unique device identification in the index, creating in

3   the index an enduring record for the device.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 further including tracking updates to the

2   index.

1   8.   A system for transferring data, the system comprising:

2   (a)   an input record for a device, the input record having a

3   recorded unique device identification and recorded device data;

4   (b)   a record reader configured to read, from the input record,

5   the recorded unique device identification and the recorded device data for the

6   device;

7   (c)   an index having at least one enduring record, each enduring

8   record having an enduring unique device identification;

9   (d)   an inspector configured to search the index for one of the

10   enduring unique device identifications matching the recorded unique device

11   identification; and,

12   (e)   an updater configured to update the index with the recorded

13   device data.

1   9.   The system of claim 8 wherein the recorded device data includes a

2   recorded usage data.

1   10.   The system of claim 9 wherein the at least one enduring record

2   further includes enduring device data and the enduring device data includes an

3   enduring usage data and further including:

4   (a)   an index reader configured to read the enduring usage data

5   from the enduring record having the enduring unique device identification

6   matching the recorded unique device identification; and,

7   (b)   a calculator configured to calculate a difference in usage

8 data from the enduring usage data and the recorded usage data.

1   11   The system of claim 8 wherein the updater includes a recorder

2 configured to replace enduring device data from the index with the recorded

3 device data.

1   12   The system of claim 8 wherein the at least one enduring record

2 further includes enduring device data and the updater is further configured to

3 update the enduring device data from the enduring record having the enduring

4 unique device identification matching the recorded unique device identification.

1   13.   The system of claim 8 further including an inserter configured to

2 respond to a failure to find a match to the recorded unique device identification

3 in the index by creating, in the index, an enduring record for the device.

1   14.   The system of claim 8 further including a transaction log

2 configured to track updates to the index.

1   15.   A program storage device readable by a computer, tangibly

2 embodying a program, applet, or instructions executable by the computer to

3 perform method steps for transferring data, the method steps comprising:

4   (a)   reading, from an input record, a recorded unique device

5 identification and recorded device data for a device;

6   (b)   searching an index for an enduring unique device

7 identification matching the recorded unique device identification; and,

8   (c)   updating the index with the recorded device data.

1   16.   The program storage device of claim 15 wherein the recorded

2 device data includes a recorded usage data and wherein the method steps

3 further include:

4   (a)   reading an enduring usage data from an enduring record in

5 the index having enduring unique device identification matching the recorded

6 unique device identification; and,

7   (b)   calculating a difference in usage data from the enduring

8 usage data and the recorded usage data.

1   17.   The program storage device of claim 15 wherein the method step

2 of updating the index with the recorded device data includes replacing enduring

3 device data from the index with the recorded device data.

1   18.   The program storage device of claim 15 wherein the method step

2 of updating the index with the recorded device data includes updating enduring

3 device data from an enduring record in the index having enduring unique device

4 identification matching the recorded unique device identification.

1   19.   The program storage device of claim 15 wherein the method steps

2 further include, responsive to a failure to find a match to the recorded unique

3 device identification in the index, creating in the index an enduring record for the

4 device.

1   20.   The program storage device of claim 15 wherein the method steps

2 further include tracking updates to the index.